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AN APPROACH TO THE DESIGN OF OPERATIONS SYSTEMS

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1. BACKGROUND

The MultiMission Control Team (MMCT) consists of mission controllers which provides Real-Time operations support for the Mars Observer project. The Real-Time Operations task is to insure the integrity of the ground data system, to insure that the configuration is correct to support the mission, and to monitor the spacecraft for the Spacecraft Team. Operations systems are typically developed by adapting operations systems from previous projects. Problems tend to be solved empirically when they are either anticipated or observed in testing. This development method has worked in the past when time was available for extensive Ops testing. In the present NASA budget environment a more cost conscious design approach has become necessary. Cost is a concern because operations is an ongoing, continuous activity. Reducing costs entails reducing staff. Reducing staffing levels potentially increases the risk of mission failure. Therefore, keeping track of the risk level is necessary.

2. INTRODUCTION

The role of the MMCT is to interact with the process (Mars Observer mission) to accomplish required tasks. The organizations design discussed here is to develop an organization of people, equipment, software, and procedures that will accomplish these tasks. The goal is to provide a design technique that can produce an operations organization that will meet the requirements placed on it, with minimum costs and with the understanding of the risks involved.

The design approach is based on considering the Mars Observer mission as a process. The Mars Observer mission is a rather linear process. The spacecraft is launched; then, it goes through a well specified sequence of actions until the end of the mission.

The following Operations System design approach was developed for the design of the MMCT to support the Mars Observer mission.

The design technique consists of:

Identifying the Mars Observer Mission process.

Modeling the process.

Identifying the requirements imposed by the Mars Observer Project on the MMCT.

Synthesizing the MMCT scenarios that respond to the mission requirements, both imposed and implied requirements.

Derive requirements for support from other parts of the operations organization.

Analyzing scenarios for staffing requirements, training requirements, workload problems, etc.

Reviewing the imposed requirements from the Project for feasibility. Requirements that cannot be accommodated are negotiated.

Developing staffing plans, training plans, test plans, etc.

The Mission sequence model is documented in the MMCT Design Document. The Project requirements and the MMCT operating scenarios are integrated into the design document.

This approach to the design of the MMCT provides a more complete understanding of the mission processes and a cost effective method of the tailoring of the MMCT operations system to support the Mars Observer mission. The purpose of this paper is to present this approach and discuss its merits.

3. APPROACH

The Mars Observer mission process is identified from the Mars Observer Mission Sequence Plan (Ref. 1). This document identifies the spacecraft activities that are to be supported by the MMCT. The Mars Observer Mission Operations specification Volume 3: Operations (Ref. 2) present the requirements that the MMCT must meet to support the project.

The mission sequence is modeled in a form that allows for hierachic refinements. To facilitate this effort, the commercial computer program SDDL was chosen. SDDL is a Pseudo English language intended for software program design. The Mars Observer Mission Sequence Plan was the basis for decomposing the mission process from an overall description through subprocesses to elementary processes. Typically, these elementary processes were sufficiently simple to be described on a single page. SDDL provided the capability to reference subprocesses through CALL statements in the manner of a software subroutine. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the decomposition of the mission process.

Verification of the process model is provided by joint reviews between the Mars Observer MMCT design team and the Spacecraft Control Team (SCT). The requirements presented by the Mars Observer Project are analyzed in terms of their impact on the Mars Observer MMCT organization system. The requirements are clarified so that they are consistent for both the originating and the responding organizations. The imposed requirements are integrated into the

design document where they apply. SDDL has the capability of indexing the requirements and placing the index at the end of the design document. Figure 3 illustrates the requirements and the requirements index.

MMCT operations scenarios are developed to accomplish the required tasks. They are written into the Mars Observer process model to form the MMCT Design Document. Scenarios that satisfy the imposed requirements are integrated with the requirements to provide requirements traceability. Operations scenarios are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

The requirements are then negotiated between the Mars Observer MMCT and the Mars Observer Project. Requirements are accepted, waived, or when problems exist workaround solutions are identified. The requirements are refined and documented in the design document.

The operating scenarios are reviewed by experienced mission controllers. Experience from prior missions is used to test the validity of the scenarios. A person with actual experience usually can tell whether a task (scenario) can be accomplished in the time required and with the resources allowed.

From the Mission Controller Team scenarios, the resources required to support the Mars Observer mission are identified. These resources include staffing, data, hardware, software, work- station displays, procedures, logs, reports, and management interactions. Displays that are required to support specific MMCT tasks are identified, specified, and indexed in the design document.

Derived requirements identified above are placed in the Design Document at their point of application and again are indexed with the SDDL indexing capability. Derived requirements are illustrated in Figures 2 and 4. Derived requirements are requirements that are derived from the exposition of the operating scenarios. They are the data, procedures, equipments, support, etc. that are recognized as needed to accomplish the required MMCT tasks.

Discrepancies discovered in the process of developing and analyzing scenarios are recorded as unresolved issues. Unresolved issues are identified and indexed. This allows unresolved issues to be tracked. The unresolved issues index is illustrated in Figure 5.

Scenarios are analyzed and workload studies are performed. These workload studies are used to identify when controllers are overloaded. They also identify when one controller may be available for additional mission responsibilities, thereby improving multimission operation.

The detailed workload studies and requirements analyses indicate when a specific spacecraft sequence overloads the mission controller, or when resources are not adequate to support the mission operations. This provides an understanding of specific risks of failure. It provides the basis for the MMCT development team to negotiate additional staffing, specific workstation displays, software tools, data validation programs, additional spacecraft or mission information, or if required additional time to accomplish specific tasks.

The MMCT Design Document then provides the basis for staffing and training plans. The design document provides the basis for determining whether the mission controller will be operating the Knowledge based mode or the Procedural based mode.

One of the basic parameters of designing an operations system is whether the operation will be Knowledge based or Procedural based. That is, will the normal operation be based on the operators knowledge of the process or will the operator normally be guided by preplanned procedures. The advantage of Procedural based operations design is that the skill requirements on the operator is less than for a Knowledge based operations system. We can expect the operator costs to be less for Procedural based system than for Knowledge based system. Procedural based system design can be used when the basic process is well known and relatively simple (i.e. procedures can be written), and the

basic system is stable (i.e. procedures are continuously valid).

When the basic system process is not well understood or the process changes, adequate procedures are difficult, therefore the system must be operated as a Knowledge based system. This requires that the operator be sufficiently knowledgeable of the system process that he can recognize when problems occur and can formulate plans to resolve the problems. The advantage of a Knowledge based system is that preplanning is minimized, and the operator responds to problems when they occur. If a Procedural based operation is appropriate, then the necessary procedures are identified and plans for developing them are generated. If a Knowledge based operations is more appropriate, then the necessary training plans are identified and developed.

4. CONCLUSION

The Mars Observer MMCT Design Document, as presented in the SDDL format, serves as the repository for the Mars Observer mission process model, the imposed requirements, the synthesized Mars Observer Controller responsibilities, the derived requirements, and unresolved issues.

The Mars Observer MMCT Design Document provides the basis for developing operations procedures, staffing plans, and training plans.

The Mars Observer MMCT Design Document provides a clear basis for the negotiation of resources with other organizations. It also provides the tracking of derived requirements and unresolved issues. It provides a tool for working out the details of the implementation. It provides the structure on which the details of the operations scenarios are analyzed to uncover problems and inconsistencies.

The design techniques presented for the MMCT Operations design provide a clear, rational, cost effective design process.

With a better understanding of the Operations System development come better cost control and risk management.

5. REFERENCES

1. Mars Observer Mission Sequence Plan, Vol 1: Mission Sequencing Scenarios, 642-313, Vol. 1. November, 1991. Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL D-3826, Vol 1.
2. Mars Observer Mission Operations Specifications, Vol 3: Operations Encounter Version, 642-315, Vol 3. September, 1991. Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL D-3822.

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84 PROGRAM Mission_Phase
85   ****
86   * This module is the top level of the mission activity hierarchy. *
87   ****
88
89   ++++++
90   + At any point in the MO mission activity the MCT has
91   + the capability to:
92   +   * Transmit required commands to spacecraft
93   +   * Verify spacecraft receipt of commands
94   +   * Identify GDS conditions that interrupt or
95   +     degrade command transmissions
96   +   * Assure continued acquisition, safeing of required data
97   +   * Verify accomplishment of the SOE
98   +   * Identify unexpected interruptions or degradations
99   +     of the required data
100  +   * Initiate troubleshooting procedures when data product,
101  +     command interruptions, degradations occur
102  +   * Coordinate GDS recovery from data product and
103  +     command interruptions and degradation
104  +   * Develop, analyze real-time S/C, GDS trends
105  +   * Report observed spacecraft data anomalies to SCT
106  +   * Respond to and coordinate real-time SOE changes
107  ++++++
108  ++++++
109  + Note: A success-oriented mission activity is assumed in the
110  + following analysis
111  ++++++
112  SELECT Mission_Phase
113
114  CASE Launch
115    CALL Launch_Phase----->( 3)
116
117  CASE Inner_Cruise
118    CALL Inner_Cruise----->( 4) --->
119
120  CASE Outer_Cruise
121    CALL Outer_Cruise----->( 5)
122
123  CASE Orbit_Insertion
124    CALL Orbit_Insertion----->( 6)
125
126  CASE Mapping
127    CALL Mapping----->( 7)
128
129
130
131  142 PROGRAM Inner_Cruise
132  ****
133  * Mission activities in the Inner Cruise Phase
134 ENI 145
135
146
147  SELECT Inner_cruise phase sequence
148
149  CASE Spacecraft_checkout (C1)
150    CALL Spacecraft_Checkout----->( 8)
151
152  CASE TCM_1 (C2)
153    CALL TCM_1----->( 23)
154
155  CASE Payload_Checkout (C3)
156    ----->( 25)
157
158
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191
192  PROGRAM Spacecraft_Checkout
193  ****
194  * ID C1, Duration 13 days, Start I+2 days, End I+15 days
195  * Continuous DSN coverage
196  ****
197
198  !!!!!!!!
199  ! ASSUMPTIONS
200  ! The SCT is on duty
201  !!!!!!!!
202
203
204  LOOP for duration of C1
205
206    CALL Monitor----->( 55)
207
208    Do the C1 activities as they are required
209    CALL C1_Activities----->( 9) ---> Figure 2
210
211    IF Shift_change
212      CALL Shift_Change----->( 48)
213    ENDIF
214
215    IF Station_transfer
216      CALL Station_Transfer----->( 51)
217    ENDIF
218
219  ENDOLOOP
220
221  Return to
222  CALL Inner_Cruise----->( 4)
223

```

Figure 1

```
288 PROGRAM CIA_Activities
289 ****
290 * This is the scenario for the mission controller to handle
291 * the CIA activities
292 ****
```

Derived Requirement	<p> CIA activities scenario [IN.01.1 CIA activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT]</p> <p>Callup the -CIA display- 'D.3.1 CIA display'</p>
---->	
300	Confirm USO selected (L0013/L0020) (I+2/16:00:00)
301	Confirm Ranging enabled (L0009/L0016) (I+2/16:00:00)
302	Confirm RPA 2 filament is off (L0029) (I+2/16:00:30) <---- MMCT Scenario
303	Callup -DTR display-
304	Confirm that DTR1 is active (C0016) (I+2/16:01:00)
305	Confirm Sun Monitor disabled (?) (I+2/16:02:00)
306	[IN.01.2 What is the Sun Monitor disabled channel number] <---- Unresolved Issue
307	
308	Conf long-term gyro recovery enabled (F4064) (I+2/16:03:00)
309	
310	Confirm new battery charge rate (I+2/16:04:00)
311	Charge rate 1: E0501 2: E0503
312	Voltage limits 1: E0301(H)
313	2: E0303(H)
314	
315	Playback DTR3 at 8 kbps (I+2/16:30:00)
316	
317	CALL DTR_Playback-----> (41)
318	Playback DTR2 at 32 kbps (I+2/20:00:00)
319	
320	CALL DTR_Playback-----> (41)
321	Return to 2 kbps ENG telemetry (I+2/23:00:30)
322	

Figure 2

```

1891 PROGRAM Station_Data_Recall
1892 ****
1893 * The following procedure is used to recall recorded data
1894 * from the station that for some reason did not get into the PDB.
1895 ****
1896 ****
1897 "R 5.2.2.1.7 Telemetry data gaps, playback" <---- Requirement
1898 |
1899 | Telemetry data playback from DSCC scenario |
1900 | [IN.29.1 TLM data playback from DSCC scenario needs validation]
1901 MMCT Scenario
1902 ****
1903 Request DSCC to playback required telemetry data
1904 |
1905 Configure SFOC for DSCC data playback
1906 |
1907 Confirm DSCC playback
1908 |
1909 Confirm telemetry playback data received at PDB
1910 |
1911 Log telemetry playback
1912 |
1913 Return to
1914 CALL Outgoing_Station----->( 52)
1915 |
1916 ENDPGM

```

PAGE 56

```

1979 PROGRAM Imposed_Requirements
1980 ****
1981 * All the imposed requirements are obtained from the
1982 * Mission Operations Specification Volume 3: Operations
1983 ****
1984 ****
1985 1986 "R 2.3.1.3 Spacecraft and Ground Health Monitoring"
1987 |
1988 The PPSO/MCT shall monitor the spacecraft and GDS data when
1989 provided with valid spacecraft/ground predicts, standards,
1990 and limits. The following monitoring scenario supports
1991 this requirement.
1992 CALL Monitor----->( 55)
1993 |
1994 Requirements Definition
1995 |
1996 "R 5.2.2.1.7 Telemetry data gaps, playback"
1997 |
1998 In the event of telemetry data gaps that need to be filled to
1999 meet Project requirements, the MCT shall coordinate with DSO
2000 and DAT to assure that telemetry data is recalled from the GIP
2001 or DSCC as soon as possible after the end of the tracking pass
2002 but not to exceed 12 hours.
2003 CALL Station_Data_Recall----->( 53)
2004 |
2005 ENDPGM

```

Imposed Requirements
CROSS REFERENCE LISTING

PAGE 71

R 2.3.1.3 Spacecraft and Ground Health Monitoring	PAGE 56 PROGRAM Imposed_Requirements	1986
R 5.2.1.3	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2213
R 5.2.1.4	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2206
R 5.2.1.6.1	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2218
R 5.2.1.6.2	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2233
R 5.2.1.6.3	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2239
R 5.2.1.7.2	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2245
R 5.2.1.7.3	PAGE 61 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2252
R 5.2.2.1.1.1	PAGE 62 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2259
R 5.2.2.1.1.2	PAGE 62 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2264
R 5.2.2.1.1.3	PAGE 62 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2270
R 5.2.2.1.5.2	PAGE 62 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2275
R 5.2.2.1.6	PAGE 62 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2281
R 5.2.2.1.7	PAGE 62 PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2291
R 5.2.2.1.7 Telemetry data gaps, playback	PAGE 53 PROGRAM Station Data Recall	1898 <---- Requirements Index
	PAGE 56 PROGRAM Imposed_Requirements	1994

Figure 3

2007 PROGRAM Derived_Requirements
 2008
 2009 'D.1 A top level display is required'
 2010
 2011 This display provides a GO/NOGO indication of the configuration
 and performance of each of the S/C and GDS system.
 2012 CALL Monitor----->(55)
 2013
 2014
 2015 'D.2.1 DTR playback display'
 2016
 2017 A display is required to support the DTR activities scenarios.
 2018 CALL DTR_Playback----->(41)
 2019 CALL DTR_Repack----->(42)
 2020 CALL DTR_End_of_Record----->(43)
 2021
 2022 'D.2.4 Spacecraft Maneuver display'
 2023
 2024 Definition 2025 A display is required to support the spacecraft maneuver
 scenario.
 2025 CALL Maneuver----->(24)
 2026
 2027 'D.3.1 CIA display'
 2028 2028 A display is required to support the CIA mission segment.
 2029 CALL CIA_Activities----->(11)
 2030 CALL REDMAN_Activities----->(13)
 2031
 2032
 2033
 2034 'D.3.2 C1B display'
 2035
 2036 A display is required to support the C1B mission segment.
 2037 CALL C1B_Activities----->(14)
 2038
 2039 'D.3.3 C1C display'
 2040
 2041 A display is required to support the C1C mission segment.
 2042 CALL C1C_Activities----->(17)
 2043
 2044 'D.3.4 C1D display'
 2045
 2046 A display is required to support the C1D mission segment.
 2047 CALL C1D_Activities----->(18)
 2048 CALL C1E_Activities----->(20)
 2049 CALL C1E_B_Activities----->(21)
 2050 CALL C1F_Activities----->(22)
 2051
 2052 'D.3.6 C3A display'
 2053
 2054 A display is required to support the C3A mission segment.
 2055
 2056 CALL C3A----->(26)
 2057

Derived Requirements CROSS REFERENCE LISTING			PAGE 72
+++++ D.1 A top level display is required PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived_Requirements 2009			
D.2.1 DTR display PAGE 41 PROGRAM DTR_Playback 1522 PAGE 42 PROGRAM DTR_Repack 1570 PAGE 43 PROGRAM DTR_End_of_Record 1629			
D.2.1 DTR playback display PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived Requirements 2015			
D.2.4 Spacecraft Maneuver display PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived Requirements 2022			
D.2.5 Spacecraft Maneuver display PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver 822			
D.3.1 CIA display PAGE 11 PROGRAM CIA_Activities PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived_Requirements ----- D.3.10 C5 display PAGE 34 PROGRAM Outer_Cruise_Transition 1269 PAGE 58 PROGRAM Derived_Requirements 2075			
D.3.2 C1B display PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B_Activities 403 PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived Requirements 2034			
D.3.3 C1C display PAGE 17 PROGRAM C1C_Activities 509 PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived Requirements 2039			
D.3.4 C1D display PAGE 18 PROGRAM C1D_Activities 543 PAGE 57 PROGRAM Derived Requirements 2044			

<---- Derived Requirements Index

Figure 4

Unresolved Issues
CROSS REFERENCE LISTING

PAGE 73

IN.01.1 C1A activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	344
PAGE 11 PROGRAM C1A Activities	344
IN.01.2 What is the Sun Monitor disabled channel number	<----
PAGE 11 PROGRAM C1A Activities	Unresolved Issue Index
IN.01.4 How to confirm that heads are parked	
PAGE 11 PROGRAM C1A Activities	345
IN.02.1 REDMAN activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	360
IN.02.2 What is the battery temp cont channel number	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	364
IN.02.3 What is the battery charge contr channel number	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	367
IN.02.4 Is E0001 the correct CN for battery backup charge?	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	371
IN.02.5 How is the contingency alert enable confirmed	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	374
IN.02.6 How is the telemetry verification enable confirmed	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	377
IN.02.8 What parameters and thresholds are used in REDMAN	
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN_Activities	386
IN.03.1 C1B activities scenario needs validation	
PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B_Activities	400
IN.03.2 How is Biprop system vented and primed confirmed	
PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B_Activities	411
IN.03.3 Do we need to look at the HGA GDE on signal?	
PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B_Activities	416
IN.05.1 C1C activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 17 PROGRAM C1C_Activities	506
IN.06.1 C1D activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 18 PROGRAM C1D_Activities	540
IN.07.1 C1-E(P) activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 20 PROGRAM C1EP_Activities	608
IN.08.1 C1-E(B) activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 21 PROGRAM C1EB_Activities	662
IN.09.1 C1-F activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 22 PROGRAM C1F_Activities	718
IN.10.1 TCM-1 Operational scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 23 PROGRAM TCM_1	772
IN.11.1 Maneuver scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	817
IN.11.2 What is MCT responsibility during manuevers	
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	819
IN.11.3 How do we confirm spacecraft momentum unload	
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	825
IN.11.4 What does MCT do on a faulty manuever	
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	863
IN.12.1 Payload checkout scenario should be reviewed with SCT	
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	936
IN.12.2 What is the PDS write protect on/off channel number	
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	949
IN.12.3 How are three redundant PDS memory readouts confirmed	
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	960
IN.12.4 How is command PDS to RAM confirmed	
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	963
IN.12.5 On switch to S&E-1 MBR, is there any effect on GDS	

Figure 5